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ACCESS CONTROL THROUGH DEFAULT
PROFILES AND METADATA POINTERS
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RCE AMENDMENT

SIR:

This paper is submitted pursuant to the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) after the “Decision On Appeal” of October 25, 2010. Please reconsider the above-identified application based on the following.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[10]] 36, wherein the access to the selected content is permitted if the comparison indicates that the selected content meets the filtering criterion of the default profile.
3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[10]] 36, wherein the content includes at least one of audio and video data.
4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[10]] 36, wherein the information of the metadata includes at least one of an MPAA rating, a content advisory, a name of an actor associated with the selected content, a name of a director of the selected content, a genre and a synopsis.
5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[10]] 36, wherein the filtering criterion includes at least one of identification of acceptable ratings, identification of acceptable content advisories, identification of prohibited synopsis information, identification of prohibited directors, identification of prohibited actors, and identification of prohibited genres.
6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[10]] 36, wherein the metadata is coded in XML.
7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[10]] 36, further comprising: providing the selected content on a removable medium.
8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the medium includes at least one of a CD, DVD, magnetic tape, and flash memory.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~control access to content via a player stream accessible by a plurality of users~~ claim 36, ~~the method comprising: providing a default profile including at least one filtering criterion, the filtering criterion describing at least one of a characteristic of content permitted for all of the plurality of users and a characteristic of content prohibited for all of the plurality of users; comparing metadata associated with a selected content and the filtering criterion of the default profile, the metadata including information related to the selected content; and permitting or denying access to the content based on the comparison, wherein;~~

~~the metadata is associated with the selected content using a URL used in connection with the selected content, associates the metadata with the selected content; [[,]] and wherein the method further comprises obtaining the metadata using the URL , wherein the URL associates the metadata with the selected content.~~

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to control access to content via a player stream accessible by a plurality of users claim 36, the method comprising: providing a default profile including at least one filtering criterion, the filtering criterion describing at least one of a characteristic of content permitted for all of the plurality of users and a characteristic of content prohibited for all of the plurality of users; comparing metadata associated with a selected content and the filtering criterion of the default profile, the metadata including information related to the selected content; and permitting or denying access to the content based on the comparison, wherein a pointer to the metadata is encoded in a Vertical Blanking Interval of a signal of the selected content, and the method further comprises comprising obtaining the metadata using the pointer.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the pointer is a URL.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[10]] 36, further comprising:

providing a user profile associated with a particular one of the plurality of the users, the user profile including at least one filtering criterion describing at least one of a characteristic of content permitted to be accessed by the particular one of the users and a characteristic of content prohibited from being accessed by the particular one of the users; comparing the filtering criterion of the user profile and the metadata; and permitting access to the selected content if the content meets the filtering criterion.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Original) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:
requiring the user to provide user information if the selected content does not meet the filtering criterion of the default profile.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the user information includes a username and a password, the user profile being associated with the username.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[10]] 36, wherein the comparing step includes comparing the metadata and the filtering criterion of the default profile prior without requiring a user to provide user information.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) The content player according to claim [[21]] 37, wherein the selected content is provided on a removable media.

19. (Currently Amended) The content player according to claim [[21]] 37, wherein a pointer to the metadata is associated with the selected content, and wherein the processor is configured to obtain the metadata for the comparison using the pointer.

20. (Original) The content player according to claim 19, wherein the pointer is a URL.

21. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The content player according accessible to a plurality of users claim 37, comprising: a memory device storing a default profile, the default profile including at least one filtering criterion, the filtering criterion of the default profile describing at least one of a characteristic of content permitted for all of the plurality of users and a characteristic of content prohibited for all of the plurality of users; a processor configured to compare metadata associated with selected content and the filtering criterion of the default profile, the processor configured to permit or deny rendering of the selected content based on the comparison, wherein the processor is provided in a settop box, and wherein the processor controls rendering of the content on a television and wherein the processor is configured to obtain a pointer to the metadata, the pointer being encoded in a vertical blanking interval of a signal of the selected content, and wherein the processor obtains the metadata for the comparison using the pointer.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) The content player according to claim [[21]] 38, wherein the pointer is a URL.

24. (Currently Amended) The content player according to claim [[21]] 37, wherein the processor is configured to manage the default profile and a plurality of user profiles, each of the user profiles being associated with a respective one of the users.

25. (Currently Amended) The content player according to claim [[21]] 37, wherein the filtering criterion includes at least one of identification of acceptable ratings, identification of acceptable content advisories, identification of prohibited synopsis information, identification of prohibited directors, identification of prohibited actors, and identification of prohibited genres.

26. (Currently Amended) The content player according to claim [[21]] 37, wherein the metadata is coded in XML.

27. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to control access to content via a player system claim 36, the method comprising: selecting content, wherein the selected content includes having metadata linked thereto via a pointer, the method further comprising:
[[:]]

obtaining the metadata using the pointer ; ~~comparing the metadata and at least one filtering criterion, the filtering criterion describing a characteristic of at least one of permitted content or prohibited content; permitting or denying access to the selected content based on the comparison.~~

28. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the pointer is embedded in a Vertical Blanking Interval (VBI) of a signal of the selected content, and wherein the method further comprises:

extracting the pointer from the VBI.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the pointer is a URL, and the step of obtaining the metadata of the selected content includes obtaining the metadata over the Internet using the URL.

30. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] content player according to claim 37, wherein the comprising: a memory device storing at least one filtering criterion, the filtering criterion describing a characteristic of at least one of permitted content and prohibited content; and a processor is configured to obtain a pointer to metadata associated with selected content, and to obtain the metadata using the pointer , ~~compare the metadata to the filtering criterion, and to permit or deny rendering of the selected content based on the comparison , wherein the processor is configured to extract the pointer from a vertical blanking interval (VBI) of a signal of the selected content.~~

31. (Canceled).

32. (Original) The content player according to claim 30, wherein the pointer is a URL, and the processor is further configured to obtain the metadata over the Internet using the URL.

33. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~control access to content stored on a memory device~~ claim 36, wherein ~~comprising: selecting the selected content is stored on a~~ [[the]] memory device, the method further comprising: [[;]]

reading metadata associated with the content , ~~wherein the metadata is read from a location indicated by a pointer extracted from a vertical blanking interval (VBI) of a signal of the selected content; comparing the metadata to at least one stored filtering criterion, the filtering criterion describing a characteristic of at least one of permitted and prohibited content; and permitting or denying rendering of the content based on the comparison.~~

34. (Original) The method according to claim 33, wherein the metadata includes ratings information.

35. (Canceled).

36. (New) A method to control access to content via a player system accessible by a plurality of users, the method comprising:

providing a default profile including at least one filtering criterion, the filtering criterion describing at least one of a characteristic of content permitted for all of the plurality of users and characteristic of content prohibited for all of the plurality of users;

comparing metadata associated with a selected content and the filtering criterion of the default profile, the metadata including information related to the selected content;

permitting or denying access to the content based on the comparison with the filtering criterion of the default profile;

providing a user profile associated with a particular one of the plurality of the users, the user profile including at least one filtering criterion describing at least one of a characteristic of content permitted to be accessed by the particular one of the users and a characteristic of content prohibited from being accessed by the particular one of the users;

comparing the filtering criterion of the user profile and the metadata;

permitting access to the selected content if the content meets the filtering criterion of the user profile; and

reverting back to the filtering criterion of the default profile in connection with accessing subsequent content responsive to at least one of: passage of a predetermined length of time; a predetermined number of content being accessed; an attempt to access content prohibited by the user profile; and viewing of content accessed in accordance with the user profile.

37. (New) A content player accessible to a plurality of users, comprising:

a memory device storing a default profile and a user profile associated with a particular one of the plurality of users, the default profile and the user profile including at least one filtering criterion, the filtering criterion of the default profile describing at least one of a characteristic of content permitted for all of the plurality of users and a characteristic of content prohibited for all of the plurality of users, the filtering criterion of the user profile describing at least one of a characteristic of content permitted to be accessed by the particular one of the users and a characteristic of content prohibited from being accessed by the particular one of the users; and

a processor configured to compare metadata associated with selected content and at least one of the filtering criterion of the default profile and the filtering criterion of the user profile, the processor configured to permit or deny rendering of the selected content based on the comparison, the processor configured to, subsequent to the comparison with the filtering criterion of the user profile, revert back to the filtering criterion of the default profile in connection with rendering subsequent content responsive to at least one of: passage of a predetermined length of time; a predetermined number of content being accessed; an attempt to access content prohibited by the user profile; and viewing of content accessed in accordance with the user profile.

38. (New) The content player according to claim 21, wherein the processor is configured to obtain a pointer to the metadata, the pointer being encoded in a vertical blanking interval of a signal of the selected content; and wherein the processor obtains the metadata for the comparison using the pointer.

39. (New) The content player according to claim 30, wherein the processor is configured to extract the pointer from a vertical blanking interval (VBI) of a signal of the selected content.

40. (New) A method to control access to content via a player system accessible by a plurality of users, the method comprising:

- providing a default profile including at least one filtering criterion, the filtering criterion describing a characteristic of content prohibited for all of the plurality of users, and including a description of a characteristic of content for use as an exception to the characteristic of prohibited content;

- comparing metadata associated with a selected content and the filtering criterion of the default profile, the metadata including information related to the selected content; and
- permitting or denying access to the content based on the comparison.

41. (New) A method to control access to content via a player system accessible by a plurality of users, the method comprising:

- providing a default profile including at least one filtering criterion, the filtering criterion describing at least one of a characteristic of content permitted for all of the plurality of users and characteristic of content prohibited for all of the plurality of users;

- comparing metadata associated with a selected content and the filtering criterion of the default profile, the metadata including information related to the selected content; and
- permitting or denying access to the content based on the comparison;

- wherein the at least one filtering criterion includes a plurality of filtering criteria, a first one of the plurality of filtering criteria overriding a second one of the plurality of filtering criteria.

42. (New) A method to control access to content via a player system accessible by a plurality of users, the method comprising:

- providing a default profile including at least one filtering criterion, the filtering criterion describing at least one of a characteristic of content permitted for all of the plurality of users and characteristic of content prohibited for all of the plurality of users;

- comparing metadata associated with a selected content and the filtering criterion of the default profile, the metadata including information related to the selected content;

- permitting or denying access to the content based on the comparison; and

- displaying a user interface having fields for logging into the user profile in response to an attempt to access content prohibited according to the default profile.

REMARKS

With the addition of new claims 36 to 42, and the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 13 and 35, claims 2 to 12, 14 to 16, 18 to 21, 23 to 30, 32 to 34, and 36 to 42 are currently pending and being considered in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

New claim 36, from which claims 2 to 12, 14 to 16, 27 to 29, 33, and 34 ultimately depend, relates to a method to control access to content via a player system accessible by a plurality of users, and provides for reverting back to the filtering criterion of the default profile in connection with accessing subsequent content responsive to at least one of: passage of a predetermined length of time; a predetermined number of content being accessed; an attempt to access content prohibited by the user profile; and viewing of content accessed in accordance with the user profile. None of the cited references disclose or suggest this feature. For example, with respect to canceled claim 13, the Office Action refers to col. 11, ll. 39-44 of U.S. Patent No. 6,785,901 (“the Horiwitz reference”) as assertedly disclosing reverting back to filtering criterion of a default profile. However, the cited section refers to unlocking content responsive to a user logging out or the turning off of a set top box, in contrast to the requirements of claim 36.

Claim 36 and its dependent claims 2 to 12, 14 to 16, 27 to 29, 33, and 34 are therefore allowable.

New claim 37 includes subject matter analogous to that of claim 36. Claim 37 and its dependent claims 18 to 21, 23 to 26, 30, 32, 38, and 39 are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 36.

New claim 40 relates to a method to control access to content via a player system accessible by a plurality of users, and provides for providing a default profile including at least one filtering criterion, the filtering criterion describing a characteristic of content prohibited for all of the plurality of users, and including a description of a characteristic of content for use as an exception to the characteristic of prohibited content. None of the cited references discloses or suggests such a profile including content characteristic descriptions for use as an exception to another profile criterion, as provided for in the context of claim 40.

Claim 40 is therefore allowable.

New claim 41 relates to a method to control access to content via a player

system accessible by a plurality of users, and provides for *a first one of the plurality of filtering criteria overriding a second one of the plurality of filtering criteria*. The cited references do not disclose or suggest providing such a profile having criteria used for overriding other criteria, as provided for in the context of claim 41.

Claim 41 is therefore allowable.

New claim 42 relates to a method to control access to content via a player system accessible by a plurality of users, and provides for *displaying a user interface having fields for logging into the user profile in response to an attempt to access content prohibited according to the default profile*. The cited references do not disclose or suggest displaying a log-in interface according to such criteria.

Claim 42 is therefore allowable.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

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